

JOURNAL KEPT DURING A JOURNEY ACROSS THE MALAY PENINSULA.



Friday, 10th April, 1885.—Left Taipeng for Port Weld by train at 10.15 P.M., accompanied by Major WALKER, Captain GILES, and Mr. LISTER, and arrived at Port Weld after a 25 minutes' run. Shipped on board the *Alert*, lent by the Resident Councillor of Penang, and started for Pangkor at 11.15 P.M. The launch *Constance* had been sent on to Bernam the previous day with a guard, and the *Kinta* being disabled, it would have been impossible to start without the *Alert*.

Saturday, 11th April.—Arrived at Pangkor at 6 A.M. Mr. DEW, the Acting Superintendent, came on board. Went ashore with Major WALKER and Mr. LISTER, and inspected the buildings. We left Pangkor at 2 P.M., and anchored inside the Bernam River at 6.30 P.M.

Sunday, 12th April.—Under weigh at 4 A.M., and reached Saba at 6.30 A.M. Mr. JONES and Rajas INDUT and BIDIN came on board. Mr. JONES told us Mr. HEWETT had gone on to Tělok Mähang with the *Constance* and boats. Inspected the Police Station. I cannot understand the boldness of 12 Chinese robbers in attacking the station and village. There must have been at least thirty people actually on the spot in the shops between the farm and the station. Went down to Raja INDUT's house with him. The cholera is decreasing. Two people died yesterday, and there have been 120 deaths since the outbreak of the disease. Left Saba at 8.30 A.M. and steamed up river to Tělok Mähang. Here we met Mr. HEWETT with the *Constance* at 3 P.M., and after two hours' further steaming arrived at Changkat Bertam, where we camped for the night, sleeping in the boats.

Monday, 13th April.—At daylight WALKER and HEWETT returned down river in the *Constance*, and we, having got all our baggage into eleven river-boats the previous evening,

began rowing up-stream. Breakfasted on the river bank at noon, and getting into the great Bernam swamp camped for the night at Dahâ Rul the entrance to the final cutting. The banks were so low and wet we did not land, and the dew was excessive. This is where the fever was so bad when Mr. J. B. M. LEECH was cutting the canals. One of the boatmen sick.

Tuesday, 14th April.—Started at daylight, having poled from midday yesterday. Stopped for breakfast at 12.30 P.M. The river here is most lovely, but the district is quite uninhabited and uncleared. The upper reaches of the Bernam are wonderful in the beauty and variety of water and foliage. It turns out that our sick boatman has cholera. I gave him some cholera medicine, but he was so frightened that it had no effect; we did what we could for him, and at his request sent him back in a boat. At 2 P.M. continued our journey and reached Kuâla Slim at 6 P.M., where we found Mr. BUTLER (the Acting Magistrate) with 39 Sakeis and 80 Malays to carry our baggage. The Bernam river, by the construction of seven miles of canal, could be shortened by about 57 miles of its present length, but those canals must be both deep and wide if they are to be useful at all times of the year and at all stages of the tide, and the question is whether the expenditure necessary for such a work is at present justifiable. The influence of the tide is felt for 80 miles from the mouth of the river.

Kuâla Slim is 120 miles from the mouth of the Bernam river by the present channel.

Wednesday, 15th April.—At 7 A.M., 77° Fahrenheit, the aneroid shewed Kuâla Slim to be 120 feet above sea level.

Having loaded the coolies, left Kuâla Slim at 7.20 A.M., and after five hours' walking over a very fair path with no steep gradients (the first three miles having been made), we reached Kuâla Gëlitîng at 4.15 P.M. Distance 14 miles from Kuâla Slim, and 134 from Kuâla Bernam.

We found Mr. HILL and Mr. WOODGATE at Kuâla Gëlitîng waiting to go over the trace of the trunk-road with Mr. JONES.

After dinner, had a long conversation with Haji MUSTAPHA, Pënghûlu of Ulu Bernam, Saiyid ABUBAKAR, and WAN LENGGA of Pahang. They told me they had heard that no rafts had yet been prepared at Buntu to take me down the Pahang River,

and that I should only have to wait there; so I wrote letters to several Pahang Chiefs—TOH BAKAR of Buntu, TOH KAYA of Pënjum, and others—asking them to assist me with rafts, men and boats, and I gave these letters to MANTRI MUDA and CHE WANDA to take over the next morning, having determined to wait a day at Kuâla Gëliting. The aneroid at 4.15 P.M., Thermometer 88° F., shewed a height of 296 feet above the sea.

Thursday, 16th April.—Messrs. JONES, HILL and WOODGATE went off early towards Trolah to return by Pandras and examine two alternative traces for the main-road through Pêrak. They returned in the afternoon, and we determined that the trace already made crossing the Slim just below Kuâla Gëliting would be the best to adopt and the shortest. We spent our day in sketching and unpacking our stores from their boxes, as it was necessary to put them up in more manageable bundles in view of the difficult ground we had to travel over.

Friday, 17th April.—About thirty of our Malay coolies deserted before daylight, and this gave us a great deal of trouble, as we had not men enough to carry our baggage. By giving the Sikhs their kits to carry, we managed to get away at 8.15 A.M., with sixty-nine Malays and thirty-six Sakeis. BUTLER had fever and could not move. HILL, JONES and WOODGATE went back to the Ulu Bernam, and GILES, LISTER and I set our faces due North for Ulu Slim. After four miles of an intensely hot and trying walk through *kampongs* and padi-fields, we reached Kuâla Brîseh, the junction of the Slim and Brîseh Rivers, and here we left the Slim, still flowing North and South, while we turned sharp to the East, following the course of the Brîseh. Three and a half miles of very stiff walking, first through burnt secondary growth and then up a steep ascent, brought us to a bathing place on the bank of the Brîseh, 1,233 feet above the sea, thermometer 85°, where at 11.45 we halted for breakfast.

After a stay of two hours and a short further climb, we came to a curious overhanging rock called Sâpor Batu (the stone lean-to) above the right bank of the Brîseh River. Here we determined to camp for the night, as our coolies said they could go no further. At a very low estimate, we made 7½ miles to-day from Kuâla Gëliting in a North-East and easterly

direction. The journey was infinitely more trying than the 14 miles to Kuâla Gëlitng. Our camp was a striking sight with its fires lighting up the various groups of Sakeis, Indians, Malays and Chinese under the huge overhanging granite rock surrounded by the impenetrable gloom of virgin forest, with the faint roar of the Brîseh River rushing over its rocky bed fifty feet below.

Saturday, 18th April.—Left Sâpor Batu at 6.40 A.M., and going still easterly, with the Brîseh down in a gorge on our right, we continued the ascent till we crossed a considerable tributary of the Brîseh named Jëlûtong Lâper, height 1,646 feet above the sea. Immediately afterwards we ascended a very steep hill, then followed a ridge and with longish ascents and short descents crossed in succession the following streams:—

7.30 A.M. S. Sâpor Ibu, 1,826 feet,

7.40 A.M. S. Sâpor Anak, 1,886 feet,
S. Sâpor Manah,

8. A.M. S. Sâpor Kayu Ara, 2,281 feet,

the thermometer reading 77° F. Fifteen minutes' walk brought us to Sâpor Buluh at 8.30 A.M., height 2,550 feet above the sea, four miles from camp and eleven and-a-half miles from Kuâla Gëlitng. Temperature 75° F. Here a hut had been built for us, but after a halt of 25 minutes to let the baggage come up, we pushed on again almost due East up a steep ridge, and, passing Batu Hidang at 9.10 A.M., elevation 3,000 feet above sea, we reached Batu Gâjah at 9.22; height 3,100 feet; and the boundary between Përak and Pahang at 9.30 A.M. The aneroid shewed that the gap was 2,854 feet above Kuâla Gëlitng and 3,150 feet above the sea.

In a very tiny rill running West we traced the source of the Brîseh, and only a few feet on the other side was the first sign of a stream which, with eight others running between a succession of buttresses jutting out from the main range, forms, a little lower down, the Sungei Sambîlan—the most northerly of the three streams which, united, are called the Lipis; the Lipis in its turn joining the Jëlei with a more northerly source, and, together, becoming the Pahang River. Looking into Pahang as one stands on the gap, a lofty mountain of some 5,000 feet rises on the right, this is Chunggang, while to the left towers

a higher mountain named Kâbut. These are on the true backbone of the Peninsula, which here runs very nearly due North and South, while on either side jut out spurs more or less at right angles to the main range—eastward into Pahang and westward into Pêrak. These spurs extend, as a rule, for about six miles on each side of the backbone.

Without halting at the summit, we immediately began the descent into Pahang, and, just as we had ascended a long, narrow, gradually rising ridge called Gûnong Têlâga with the Brîseh River flowing down its southern base, so we descended the longest of many easterly-running ridges, the Sungei Sambîlan flowing West with a slight trend to the North along its southern base, but the descent into Pahang was decidedly steeper than that into Pêrak, and after 30 minutes' walk we crossed one of the nine streams that form the Sambîlan, and found we had come down 660 feet.

The soil on both sides was only moderate, studded all over with the most gigantic granite boulders I have ever seen in the Peninsula.

On the Pêrak side, I noticed many dry watercourses full of large granite blocks. In those the water may be subterraneous, as it is on the slopes of Ginting Bidei in Sêlângor, but more probably the long drought accounts for the absence of water. On the whole, I have never seen a range better watered than this one, and it is only surprising that the Slim is not a larger river. At $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the boundary and a height of 2,160 feet above the sea, we breakfasted by the bank of the Sambîlan, road and river bearing 7° North of East.

At 12.37 P.M. we resumed our journey, and at 1.30 P.M. reached a spot on the river called Sangka Dua, where two branches of the river meet again after dividing and forming a large island. Height above sea 1,740 feet. Thermometer 82° F. At 1.35 P.M. crossed the river again, but here it is named the Kênor, and has, the natives say, already received the waters of the two branches, viz., the true Lipis, which rises from the western side of Gunceng Têmang Bâtak (in which hill the Sungei Gêlting takes its rise and flows westward), and the Têbâlak, rising from a mountain further South, in which the Bernam River is said to have its source. The Kênor is now a considerable stream, and crossing it (1,564 feet above

the sea) we immediately began the ascent of what looks like an isolated hill called Bêrang. It is really, however, I should say, a long spur from the main range, over the end of which the water system passes, and which the Malay crosses as a short cut rather than follow the winding course of the river. The ascent is steep but short and of no great height, the highest point we reached being 1,734 feet above the sea, and from here the saddle is so narrow that Chung-gang can be plainly seen to the South-West and Kâbut to the North-West. This saddle runs round in an E.-S.-Easterly direction, and the descent is very fatiguing. The spur seems to be only a few feet across the top, but unusually long, and you descend by seven steps, each with a long gradual rise, and then a very steep descent. The bottom of this spur we reached at 3.8 P.M., height 680 feet above the sea, and crossing and recrossing the River Buntu, which comes from the North, we camped at the Kuâla Buntu, where it falls into the Kënor, and the combined rivers are here, for the first time, named the Lipis. The spot where the Buntu joins the Kënor is called Kuâla Buntu, and this spot we reached at 3.40 P.M., eleven miles from the boundary and fifteen miles from our last camp at Sâpor Bâtu.

Sunday, 19th April:—At 7 A.M. we left our camp, and walking through burnt secondary growth along the banks of the Lipis in a North-easterly direction reached Permâtang Linggi at 8 A.M. This place is 640 feet above the sea and still 344 feet above Kuâla Gëliting on the Pêrak side of the range. Kuâla Buntu to Permâtang Linggi three miles. Fourteen miles from the latter place to the boundary, and twenty-five and a half miles at least from Kuâla Gëliting. Good Malay walkers can do the whole distance in a day.

TOH BAKAR, the headman of this district, met me on the road, and took us to his house at Permâtang Linggi, where we were received with a salute from a few muskets. About a mile before reaching Permâtang Linggi, I noticed the stream went over a bed rock of slate, and all the gold is found further down the river. TOH BAKAR had prepared twenty-three small rafts for us, on which we shall have to travel to Jëram Bësu—a rapid where, they tell us, it is necessary to leave the river and walk to Pûchong. I found that TOH BAKAR had never been in his

life to see the Raja at the mouth of the river, and though he (TOH BAKAR) is called the owner of Trúsang, one of the richest gold districts in Pahang, it is said the Raja has lately given the place to the TOH GAJAH. Spent the day in writing and settling with our Malay and Sakei coolies, the latter returning highly delighted with their earnings. After dinner had a talk with TOH BAKAR. He and the people with him told me of all the taxes they are called upon to pay. Once a year the people are numbered, and have to pay \$1.33 a head to the Yam Túan; this they call *Hasil banchi*. Then there is the *serah*, a form of squeeze still practised in Pahang; some worthless thing is sent from the Raja to a subject, a price is named, and the subject is obliged to purchase at that price. Again when a District Chief goes annually to pay homage to the Raja, the Chief calls upon every man in his district to pay \$1 towards his expenses, and a similar contribution is demanded for the return journey. All gold must be sold to the Raja only, and it is said there is no standard of weight. It is said that most imports and exports are taxed, debt-slavery prevails in parts, and the people are liable to be called out for forced labour. The Dato' tells me that Mr. W. CAMERON came here and went on to Batu Gâjah, but he is the only white man he ever saw.

A curious thing yesterday was to hear the cry, twice repeated, of a wild Sakei as yet unfamiliar with Malays. The cry was exactly like that of a wild beast, and was probably a warning to the friends of the man who uttered it; he could not have been far from us on the eastern slope of Bêrang. Some of our people caught with nets this afternoon two of the finest fresh water fish I ever tasted in the East—*ikan klah*—weighing about 6 lbs. each.

Monday, 20th April.—After no little trouble arranging our baggage for the rafts (bamboo, four feet wide and about twenty-five feet long) we left Permâtang Linggi at 8 A.M. We had twenty-four rafts manned by TOH BAKAR's adherents and eight of the men I had brought over. The Dato', his son and all his people accompanied us, and the start was a most picturesque scene. Each raft had a poler at the stem and another at the stern, some baggage and one or two passengers on a raised central platform. The rafts at once began the descent of a

succession of rapids with intervening stretches of smooth and broken water, the stream running through a gorge with steep hills always on the northern side and sometimes on both, magnificently wooded down to the water's edge, the remarkable *Gapis* tree being a special feature. The bed of the stream appeared to be sometimes of slate and sometimes of sandstone, the banks usually of the latter and a good soil. No river scenery in the Peninsula have I ever seen to compare with this in beauty, added to which the novelty of shooting a long succession of fairly steep rapids made the journey most enjoyable.

At 9.15 A.M. we had to unload the rafts in order to shoot a considerable rapid called Jeram Měngâlor. This was negotiated without accident, and passing a very curious fishing weir in the form of the letter W, constructed by Sakeis, we stopped for breakfast at 10.30 A.M., having descended sixty feet in a distance of about three and a half miles. We left again at 2 P.M., passed the mouths of several small tributaries, and reaching a long straggling *kampung* called Ulu Sungei at 2.45 P.M., we tied up for the night at its lowest end named Sěrěbu, time 3.15 P.M., total distance, say, ten and a half miles. Unfortunately the man carrying the aneroid fell overboard from my raft and the instrument was damaged. We had to unload every raft and lift them one after another over an immense fallen tree, many similar obstructions being passed by lying down as the raft glided under one end. Altogether, without stoppages, we were five hours travelling and ten and a half miles is perhaps a low estimate of the distance, but it was carefully calculated, the compass directions being at the same time noted and shewing that the river winds considerably, the general direction being from N.E. to S.E.

At Sěrěbu I found the Panglima Muda awaiting me, and a hut prepared for our reception by the influence of TOH BAKAR. The people are all very polite and friendly, but their minds are unsettled, owing to the late attempt of the Raja Muda MANSUR to enter the country, and they don't know whether my sympathies are with him or with the Yam Túan. We made a number of sketches during the day.

Tuesday, 21st April.—At midnight last night we had a thunderstorm followed by a heavy storm of rain, the first for

three months here. We seem to have brought it over with us, for the night before we could see it raining at Bâtu Gâjah though it did not reach us. We have reason to be specially thankful for the fine weather we have had. Our journey across the hills would have been a very different matter in wet weather, many of the streams are unfordable in the rains, and though we might have made a very much more rapid descent from Bâtu Gâjah, it would probably not have been on our feet. Two of the twelve Bernam men we were obliged to bring to help to man the rafts showed signs of cholera yesterday; one is better, but the other worse this morning, and neither is fit for work. Left Sërëbu at 7.15 A.M., and passed a rock called Bâtu Rimau. This is supposed to be a petrified tiger, his body only, his head is said to be in Jëlei. At 8.20 A.M. we reached Kuâla Sungei Che Nek; gold is found in the *Ulu* of this river. At 9 A.M. we shot the Jeram Mëngis ("the rapid of tears"), and shortly after the Jeram Maalim, a considerable drop in the river. At 9.25 A.M. reached Bâtu Tâlam, and there met Haji BESAR, my messenger, in a small boat with a letter from the Yam Tûan, saying, he feared I should find the journey over the hills a difficult one, but that he had sent orders to all the headmen to assist me. At 9.45 A.M. stopped for breakfast, and leaving again at noon reached Kuâla Trûsang at 2 P.M.

Sending on the other rafts, we landed here and walked to a spot a mile distant where some twenty Chinese are mining for gold. About a quarter of an acre has been worked out by previous miners, who are said to have got $5\frac{1}{2}$ *katis* from a hole 60 feet in diameter, but left owing to a poll tax of \$8 a head being imposed, and the present men have only just begun stripping; one of them washed a basin of already once washed earth and obtained from it a few grains of gold. The spot is thirty feet above Kuâla Trûsang and is reached by crossing higher ground.

Returned to Kuâla Trûsang and started again at 3.40 P.M. getting ourselves and most of our effects drenched by a very heavy storm of rain. Arrived at Kuâla Sëmantan at 4.30 P.M., and there tied up for the night.

I have ascertained that the following are the prices of certain commodities sold at Pënjum, where the *Ulu* people have their nearest market. These prices are due to the fact that

the import of nearly every necessary and luxury seems to be farmed to certain Chinese at Pëkan, the Yam Tûan's residence at the mouth of the river. Holding a monopoly, the farmers of course charge any price they like, and it is perhaps in consequence of this that the Chinese miners in Pahang are said to number about one hundred only, and all the Malays seem to be wretchedly poor.

- 1 tin Kerosene oil, \$2.00.
- Tobacco, \$1 a *kati*.
- 40 bits of Gambier, 8 cents.
- 6 *gantangs* Salt, \$1.
- 1 ball of Opium \$22; and so on.

The highest price for rice is said to be \$1 for twelve *gantangs*. The currency of the country is gold, and the following are the weights and values :—

- 1 Itam Tengko = 4 cents of a dollar.
- 1 Këñëri of gold = 2 Itam Tengko = 8 cents.
- 1 Buso = 2 Këñëri = 2 Saga = 16 cents.
- 1 Suku = 1 Kûpang = 2 Buso = 33½ cents.
- 3 Kûpang = \$1.
- 4 Kûpang = 4 Suku = 1 Mas = \$1.33½ cents.

16 Mas = 1 Bûngkal valued in Pahang at \$24, which seems curious as it ought only to be worth \$21.28.

About 7 P.M. I heard that a messenger had arrived from Per-mâtang Linggi to say that one of my Bernam coolies, left behind to return, had died of cholera. I determined to send all my Bernam men back at once, as this makes the third man who has sickened in two days. One of those with us is better, the other worse and unable to be moved. Kept on raining till late in the night. Distance travelled to-day thirteen miles, general direction E.S.E.

Wednesday, 22nd April.—Sent back Pënghûlu MAT SALEH and the Bernam men except the one too sick to move; left him with some money in the care of a man across the river. He is a very bad patient, refuses all medicine, and does everything he is told not to do. He looks bad, but is, I think, perhaps more frightened than really ill. We had a good deal of trouble in getting new men to supply the places of these Bernam

people, and did not get away from Kuâla Semantan till 9 A.M. At 10.30 A.M. Imam Prang Pēnghûlu, a great Captain and headman of some influence, met me and invited me to go and spend the night at his house. I found he lived at a place called Smau, two hours' walk inland from Kuâla Dum, on the right bank of the river, and, as I should have lost a whole day by complying with his invitation and should have had to carry all our baggage inland and back again, I begged him to excuse me. He said he asked me to go to shew his friendship and good feeling, and I am afraid he was rather disappointed, but there was nothing to see at his place, and I could hardly spare the time.

At 11.30 A.M. stopped at Kuâla Dum for breakfast, after which I had a long talk with the Imam Prang and his people. They all complained of excessive taxation and the want of settled laws and customs. The Imam Prang told me that every buffalo exported is liable to a tax of \$3, and this goes to the TOH GĀJAH, though formerly he himself received it. At Pēnjum, there is a gambling farm, which pays the TOH KAYA \$50 a month, and that chief also gets a tax of one-tenth on all imported cloth. A great deal of rice is imported from Kēlantān, also silk sarongs. A good many sarongs are, however, manufactured in Pahang, chiefly at the Pēkan.

At 2.30 P.M. saying good-bye to the Imam Prang, we started again and still meeting occasional rapids, we soon passed into a magnificent open country, where the scenery, though different from that in the Ulu, is in its way equally fine. The river widens into a broad stream, with a partly dry channel, shewing what a considerable river it must be in the rains. The bed is full of snags, and nothing whatever seems to have been done to it, but were it cleared, there is water enough for a launch, though of course nothing of the kind could get here owing to the Jeram Bēsu rapid, which cannot be passed by boat even going down-stream. There seems to be an immense tract of level ground here. I have seen nothing like it elsewhere at such a distance from the coast. I have been told that cocoa-nuts will not flourish at over fifty miles from the sea-shore, but that is a mistake, for we have seen them everywhere.

At 3.30 P.M. we passed Kuâla Chenûer and TOH BAKAR

told me that, though his territory extended further down, his people ended here. I am told that the Jelei River, which is longer and larger than the Lipis, rises in the main range with a branch from Gûnong Tâhan—a mountain lying between the Jelei and the Têmëlin. The Têmëlin, which is said to be as considerable a stream as the Jelei, rises from the South-east face of Gûnong Tâhan, with a branch rising in the borders of Pahang and Trënggânu. Gûnong Tâhan thus stands at the meeting of Pahang, Këlantan and Trënggânu, and is not in the main range, but as this is only native report, much reliance must not be placed on it. The Lipis, Jelei and Têmëlin unite and form the Pahang river. At 4 P.M. we reached Kuâla Sëger, Dato' Kli's *kampong*, one of the most beautiful places we have yet seen on the river. It is 363 feet above the sea. The Dato' received us most cordially, and seemed a very good-tempered, intelligent old man. Distance travelled eleven miles. General direction N.E. Distance from Kuâla Bernam, 195 miles.

In the evening the Dato' told me he could not get men enough to carry our baggage past the Jeram Bësu rapid, and that I must stay here to-morrow whilst he collects them. TOH BAKAR told me he would now return with his men. I am sorry to hear that one of them has stayed behind with choleraic symptoms. I sent him some medicine.

Thursday, 23rd April.—CHE WAN DA arrived in the course of the morning with a number of men, and there was a great argument as to the liabilities of the owners of buffaloes, a man having been recently killed by one of those dangerous animals. TOH BAKAR came to tell me he and his people must now return, and TOH KLI would take me down to Pënjum. He also said he had just heard that a girl he had brought down with him and left at Batu Tâlam died last night of cholera. It is very distressing. She was perfectly well until yesterday evening, but was then attacked and died in the night. I cannot understand it. Coming across from Slim, not a man complained, the water we have had to drink has been excellent, and they have had no cholera in Pahang up to this time. I gave TOH BAKAR some medicines with directions how to use them, also a present of money to himself and his men, and we parted with mutual expressions of good-will. I have had to

prescribe for several people since I came here, fortunately with good results.

Devoted the day to writing up journal, and in the evening went out to try and find some jungle fowl, but failed. Between the river and the hills there is one great level plain covered with very short grass. Until three years ago this was a padi-field, but owing to defects in the irrigation system, they cannot now cultivate. The drought here is excessive, even the *sireh* vines are all burnt up; there are no vegetables, owing to the dryness of the ground, and the people live on rice and on what fish they can catch in the river. The villagers, principally the womenkind, wash the sand in the bed of the river for gold, and get from sixteen cents to one dollar's worth a day.

Friday, 24th April.—Left Sëger at 7.30 A.M. and walked through the fields to Jeram Tëmåle, about two miles, GILES going in the boats. All the trees that do flower seem to have come out in this dry weather, and we passed many covered all over with a splendid purple bloom, others bright scarlet and yellow, and the *Mëmplas*,* the leaves of which are used as sand-paper, in full flower, a delicate pale yellow blossom with the sweetest scent. I have never seen it in flower before, nor the trees in such profusion. These level grass plains dotted over with flowering shrubs are very unlike other parts of the Peninsula. The heat is excessive even from early morning, and the nights are not cool.

Having taken out of the rafts such baggage as would be damaged by water, we started again at 9.30 A.M., and reached Jeram Bësû at 10 A.M. This rapid and the approach to it form the most striking picture we have yet seen on this river, which presents a long succession of lovely ever-changing scenes. The river widens into a pool of dark unbroken water, with steep hills covered by virgin forest rising straight from the edge of the pool; then it narrows to the head of the rapid, which is in truth a cataract. From top to bottom of the rapid,

* Probably a *Michelia*. The ordinary *mempelas* is a *ficus*; (*ficus microcarpa*, *amplas* and *poitoria*). See the description of this and other species of *ficus* in Java. FORBES' Eastern Archipelago, 77.—ED.

and for many miles below, the bed rock (a hard sandstone) crops out and has been cut by the water into fantastic shapes, while huge boulders are piled in picturesque confusion on either side of the channel. These rocks as we came up were covered by men in many-coloured dresses, the rafts were either lying against the rocks at the head of the cataract, or slowly filing into the basin at its head and the clouds of spray dashed up from the rapid against the deep shadow of jungle foliage made a picture not to be forgotten.

The rapid itself, comparatively small after four months' drought, is the channel of the river running under the left bank, and at first sight it did not look like a place down which either raft or boat could go in safety, but we were shortly to see that the operation, though attended with considerable risk, could be successfully performed. The rapid is about sixty yards long, with a drop of some twelve feet, the water rushes and boils and foams between walls of rock, and there are two corners in the length which make the principal dangers. Two Malays mounted a raft, one at the stem and the other at the stern, each holding a large bamboo paddle fixed in a tripod. The raft slowly reached the top of the rapid, and then leapt into the boiling stream, where the men were instantly up to their waists in water. The stern man was washed off the raft, and it looked as if nothing could save him in such a place, but while the bow man with two or three powerful strokes of the paddle kept the bow off the opposite rock, the stern man dexterously leaped again on the raft, and in a moment of time a few more strokes of the bow man's paddle had cleared the raft of the second danger—a projecting rock on the other bank—and the raft was in smooth water below. After this, a second raft was taken down in the same way, and then each man went alone on a raft, and, though one of them was again thrown off in the middle of the rapid, and the other one had the paddle whirled out of his hand as the raft took its first leap, no accident occurred. A number of rafts were then sent down by themselves, and they seemed to accomplish the journey almost better without assistance, but this was explained by the fact that the weight of even one man sinks the raft to a dangerous depth, where the points of unseen rocks may wreck it. Old Dato' KLI absolutely refused to allow us to tempt Providence

in a journey down this rapid, where a good many fatal accidents have occurred, and even tried his best to make us walk to Pûchong, but this we refused to do, and sending all our non-waterproof baggage, watches, &c. by land with the Sikhs, ew started again on the rafts.

The river from Jeram Bësû to Pûchong runs through a long winding gorge, and the channel of the stream passing continuously between walls of bed rock and piles of immense detached boulders, is nothing but a series of more or less formidable rapids which succeed each other with somewhat confusing speed, but it is an exciting amusement, which we would not willingly have missed. We reached Pûchong at 12.45 P.M., very hungry indeed, and the coolies carrying our baggage arriving at the same time, we sat down on the high bank of the river as we could get no shade and made a rather uncomfortable meal. People were washing for gold in the bed of the river in several places below the last rapid. From Pûchong nearly all the Sëger people returned, and we started again at 2.20 P.M. with our own people doing most of the poling. ToH KLI however still accompanied us.

At 2.45 P.M. we met the Orang Kaya LĪPIS with a number of very small boats, a lot of men, and a Malay band, and when GILES, LISTER and I had changed from our rafts into boats, we went on again at 3.35 P.M., and reached Pënjum at 6.30 P.M., dark except for the light of the moon now about fifteen days old. I went down with the Orang Kaya in his boat and as it leaked got wet through.

A great reception awaited us at Pënjum; the high bank which rises from the river in three terraces was crowded by people some fifty of whom carried torches, their light strongly reflected by the river, here crowded with boats and rafts, made the effect very striking. As we hurried up the rough steps cut in the soil, a salute of many guns was fired, and the Orang Kaya, leading me by the hand, ushered us into a house which had been prepared for us, and made us as comfortable as possible with the means at his command. The "band" had played with great perseverance all down the river.

The distance travelled to-day was about sixteen and a half miles, and the general direction N.N.E. We did not get dinner

till 9.30 P.M., and after that the Orang Kaya and CHE ALI, who had been sent by the Yam Tûan and received me with the utmost cordiality, came in for a talk. I told the Orang Kaya I wished to go on as soon as possible, but he said there was a difficulty about boats and we could not get on to-morrow; after he had left, I received a message from CHE ALI to say that the Orang Kaya had not complied with the orders he received from the Sultan, and that the boats ought to have been ready.

Saturday, 25th April.—CHE WAN DA, who brought over my letter to the Orang Kaya and has been very useful, came to tell me he would now return to his place. He told me there was a large gold mine called Jali, worked by Chinese, an hour's walk from here. I thought of going to see it, but found the journey would be useless as they were only stripping. I understand they are working the side of a hill. It is an old mine and has yielded good results in past times. I heard from the Chinese that there is plenty of gold in the country, but no one can live here owing to the injustice, "squeezing," and want of government. They say whenever any one gets gold it is taken from him on some pretext or other, and that very few Chinese are now left in the place. If a man gets on a good mine, some chief claims it, work is stopped and not resumed, and the result is that the country is in a very bad state at the present time. A friend of Raja ISMAIL's told me that only about twenty Chinese had worked for him at Raub, and then in a very erratic and perfunctory way, sometimes stopping work altogether for months, even for a year, from want of capital.

Spent the day in writing and making a sketch of Pënjun from across the river. This place is 210 feet above sea level.

Sunday, 26th April.—I had begged that the boats might be ready for us at 6 A.M., but was disappointed. In spite of the Yam Tûan's letter, there were only two large boats and a small one ready for our party of twenty-five, WAN ALI giving me the best part of his boat. We put the servants into the small boat, GILES and LISTER went in the large one, and a number of Sikhs in the other large boat, but finding it leaked, we had to move them into a boat which providentially arrived at that moment sent by the Imam Prang Gâjah, with his son as ambassador, to meet us. WAN ALI was exceedingly angry

and said unkind things of the Orang Kaya LĪPIS, who kept walking on the bank in an aimless way seemingly quite unable to meet such a demand on his energy and resources. I of course said nothing, but WAN ALI told me the Yam Tūan had sent orders to all the Chiefs to assist me and treat me as they would himself. I had paid TOH BĀKAR for the very great help he had given us (without any orders from his Sultan) and I also sent away TOH KLI happy with a present, for he is not well off, nor in the way of squeezing other people to do his work, but I only thanked the Orang Kaya for what he did and in any case I should have hesitated to offer him money.

I was sorry not to meet here the Orang Kaya JĒLEI, to whom the Sultan had sent a letter telling him to meet us at Pĕnjum, but the Orang Kaya lives so far off he had not time to comply with the order, and I left a message for him in case he came after we had gone. The delay in getting our party finally settled into boats was so great that we did not leave Pĕnjum till 10 A.M.

Above Kuâla Priok, CHE WAN DA met us with a present of rice, and we stopped at the Kuâla, a beautiful place, for breakfast. CHE WAN DA's father lives here. On the way down the river, we passed a gigantic waterwheel fixed in the river and used for irrigating the land on the bank. The wheel (undershot) is forced slowly round by the current of the river. On its outer circumference are fixed at a certain angle lengths of bamboo closed at one end and open at the other and as the wheel revolves these bamboos in turn enter the river, mouth upwards, are filled with water, and, as they arrive at the highest point of their orbit, they, one after the other, discharge their load of water into a trough which conveys it by gravitation to the required point in the field. I have not before seen in the Malay States so large or well-constructed an irrigating wheel, but I believe they have been and still may be used in Ulu Muar.

Left Kuâla Priok at 1.30 P.M. and continuing our journey reached Kuâla LĪPIS (where this river falls into the JĒlei) at 1.50 P.M. Here CHE WAN DA left us to return to his home; he has been very useful and shewn a great desire to be friendly and helpful. The combined rivers—the LĪpis and JĒlei—immediately after their junction, are about sixty yards wide. The

Jělei carries rather more water than the Lĭpis. Camped for the night at Pulau Krinau at 5.30 P.M., having passed the following *kampongs* during the day:—Bandar Lĭma, Kampong Pulau, Sĕmĕtong, Jĕram Lĭna, Kuĕla Kĕchau.

Distance travelled to-day, ten miles; general direction N.N.E.

Monday, 27th April.—Started before 6 A.M. and passing Changkong, where there is a longish rapid with but little fall in it but many rocks which make it difficult for boats to navigate, stopped just below at noon for breakfast. The river is here about 100 yards wide, that is, the bed of the stream from bank to bank. There were numerous tracks of deer on the sandspit where we lunched, and while we stayed there the carcase of a wild pig floated past. Leaving again at 1.30 P.M. we camped for the night at Kĕla Tĕmĕlin, where the waters of that stream join the combined Lĭpis and Jĕlei thus forming the Pahang River.*

The Tĕmĕlin, which, as I have said, comes from the North and rises in a mountain on the borders of Pahang and Trĕnggĕnu, is in width and body of water about the same size as the combined Lĭpis and Jĕlei, at least so it appears at the confluence, but it is a curious fact that neither the addition of the waters of the Jĕlei nor yet of the Tĕmĕlin appears to make any immediate and pronounced difference in the width or depth of the Pahang River. The growth of the stream seems gradual, and, except at the actual points of junction, the reception of the waters of the Jĕlei and Tĕmĕlin, themselves large rivers, seems to have no more effect in widening or deepening the river than is made by the addition of the waters of any of those smaller tributaries the mouths of which we pass daily. It was 5 P.M. when we reached Kuĕla Tĕmĕlin, 154 feet above the sea, and with some difficulty I got here a few specimens of really excellent Malay pottery—vessels of various forms and designs for holding water.

* This place is mentioned in Perak history, on the occasion of the marriage of the Raja Muda of Pahang with a Perak princess (circ. A.D. 1600), as the place at which the Perak and Pahang envoys met. The Tĕmĕlin is the river called Tĕmbĕlang تَمْبَلَنْج in the *Misa Malayu* and in the *Undang-undang ka*

Raja-an (code of laws) of Perak, Pahang and Johor. See No. 9 of this Journal, p. 101. Ed.

Kuâla Têmëlin is celebrated in Pahang for its earthenware, but like all natives far from a market, the potters keep no stock and make only what is ordered. The shapes of the jars I got are all good, and the decoration, done with a sharp tool before the firing, is most artistic. We ordered some further specimens to be made, including incense-burners.

Distance travelled to-day $21\frac{1}{4}$ miles ; general direction E.S.E.

We passed, in the order in which they are given, the following small villages or clusters of huts on our journey to-day :—Pâsir Sibau, Jeram Chêkuas, Bâtu Gâjah, Sungei Kënung, Rantau Panjang, Pulau Sa'amas, Sungei Chika, Pulau Têm-hûnga, Changkat Glugor, Bâtu Pâpan.

Tuesday, 23th April.—Got away at 5.30 A.M., and stopped for breakfast at Kangsa at 12.25 P.M. The temperature in my boat at noon was 93° and in the water of the river 98° . The thermometer stands at 95° in the boat every day at 2 P.M. and the excessive heat of Pahang strikes us all. We notice here that the people are decidedly darker than the Malays on the western side of the Peninsula, and those Malays who have come with us from Pêrak complain especially of the great heat of the ground to bare feet when walking in the exposed fields which stretch inland from the river bank. Unfortunately I broke the thermometer to-day, but I do not think it could tell us much more than we have learnt already.

Started again at 3.45 P.M., and reached Pulau Tâwer at 4 P.M. Here we were met by the Imam Prang Indra Gâjah, the Yam Tûan's right-hand man in all matters connected with that part of the country which lies up-stream from Pulau Tâwer. The Imam Prang gave us a most cordial reception and, dragging me by the hand up the almost vertical bank (here twenty to twenty-five feet high), ushered us into a comfortable hut, which we were informed had been constructed in a day. Our subsequent proceedings, whether dressing, writing, eating or sleeping, seemed to be matters of the deepest interest to the large crowd of Malays who surrounded the place and never lost sight of us for a moment. 'TOH GÂJAH, who is a man of about forty, very thickset and dark, but full of laughter, informed me that he had four wives, twenty-five children and nine grandchildren. He introduced his brother and a few of his male children, and after seeing that we wanted nothing

went to arrange for men to take us to Kota Kĕlanggi to-morrow morning as I expressed a wish to visit the caves there.

No one has been for some time, and the path is said to be overgrown, so the TOH GĀJAH sent off a lot of men to clear it. The river here is about 700 feet wide (about the same width as the Pĕrak River at Kuĕla Kangsa); the banks are exceedingly high and steep and the river at the present time is said to be lower than ever known. The TOH GĀJAH says that if the drought continues for another two months, that is, making six instead of three dry months as usual, there may be partial famine in the place.

The TOH GĀJAH settled with his people at Pulau Tĕwer twelve years ago, after he returned from Klang where he was sent in command of the three thousand Pahang men who, at the request of Governor Sir HARRY ORD, were despatched by the Bĕndahĕra to assist Tunku DIA UDDIN in the struggle with Rĕjĕ MAHDI.

A fine *kampong*, and houses shut in by a long bamboo fence, stretches along the bank of the river in a grove of young cocoa-nut and other fruit trees. Behind this hamlet extends an almost level plain, as far as the eye can reach, broken only to the North by a small pointed hill, and to the East by the limestone rocks in which are the caves of Kota Kĕlanggi. A considerable portion of the plain is now being ploughed for the cultivation of rice, and the rest is jungle.

Far away to the West is the mass of hills called Gĕnong Raya, to the North of which lies the river down which we have come. The mountains of the main range are nowhere visible, and we are told that the mouth of the Pahang River lies from here East a little South.

TOH GĀJAH's father was a Sumatran Malay, his mother a Pahang woman; he is reported to be a great warrior, is the Field Marshal of Pahang and ranks with the Orang Bĕsar Ampat or Chiefs of the first class. He is a man of much energy, greatly feared by the discontented faction in the upper country and greatly trusted by the Yam Tĕan.

I have ascertained from CHE ALI, who is a good authority and one of the Yam Tĕan's most trusted adherents, that the following are the principal Chiefs of Pahang:—

New Creation,	{	The Râja Muda.
		The Dâtoh Bëndahâra.
		The Dâtoh Tëmënggong.
Ôrang Bësar Ampat, Class I.	{	1. The Toh Bandar.
		2. Toh Kâya Chëno.
		3. Toh Kâya Tëmerloh (at present vacant).
		4. Maharâja Perba (at present the Ôrang Kâya Jëlei holds this post).
Ôrang Bësar dilâpan, Class II.	{	5. Toh Muda Tunggal.
		6. Toh Jabe.
		7. Toh Bangau.
		8. Toh Ômar (held by the Ôrang Kâya Sëmantan, who is also Orang Kâya Pahlâwan).
		9. Toh Pënggâwa.
		10. Toh Lëla.
		11. Ôrang Kâya Jëlei.
		12. Ôrang Kâya Lîpis.

Distance travelled to-day, eighteen and a half miles; general direction, S.E. We passed the following villages on the way:—Kampong Te, Tanjong Gâtal, Tanjong Lindong, Pulau Didâri, Kuâla Pëdas, Kampong Kuâla Sëlan, Kuâla Këdundong.

Wednesday, 29th April.—I think the TOH GÂJAH must have been up all night, for he appeared at midnight and again at 4.30 A.M. We got up at 5.30 A.M., but could not make a start till 7 A.M. Then, with the TOH GÂJAH and nearly 100 men, all armed as every one seems to be in this State, we started down the left bank of the river for Kûala Tëkam, a distance of one and a half miles, level walking but hot, for in Pahang, in this weather at any rate, light means heat and from daylight to dark one seems to be in a vapour bath. It was a curious sight to see in the Malay Peninsula buffaloes ploughing the slightly undulating plain of dry but not hard soil and more strange still to be told that the rice grain is then sown as wheat is in the West, the ground harrowed and no irrigation done whatever, the harvest depending simply upon the rain. These fields when fallow seem to grow no weeds, only a sparse short grass, and they are ploughed across and across like a chess-board several times before the wooden

plough gets deep enough, then sown, harrowed, and nothing more is required till the time of harvest.

These fields have for many years yielded crop after crop under these conditions, and the only renewal or manuring of the soil is the annual small flood, which rises over even these high banks, and a higher flood which comes about once in six years and drives the people out of their homes into rafts. I should suppose that with this soil and three months rainless weather, cotton might be successfully grown.

The Sungei Tëkam was almost dry, and whilst the Malays walked up the bed crossing and recrossing what little water there was, we were dragged up-stream in a dug-out for half a mile and then landing walked over a good level jungle-path for two and a half miles reaching Kôta Tongkat 8.35 A.M. This Kôta Tongkat is a curious sort of gate through which a river appears to have run, and it is flanked on both sides by high limestone cliffs covered with foliage; these cliffs appear to shut in a narrow valley, a mile long, at the far end of which is the cave Kôta Këlanggi,* in reality, however, the valley is only rock-bound on the right hand side as you enter and the ancient river must have met this obstruction at Kôta Këlanggi, been turned by it and, cutting along the face of these limestone cliffs, made its exit through the Kota Tongkat and thence found its way, probably by the channel of the Sungei Tëkam, to the Pahang River. There is nothing specially remarkable about Kôta Tongkat, but since the river ceased to flow through this giant gate of stone, the action of the atmosphere has formed a number of stalactites which extend from the clear cut ledges of roof to the ground (no great distance) and these probably gave to the place its present name—Kôta Tongkat.

After a short rest here (the *TOU GĀJAH* having succumbed to the pace at which we came from the river), we walked up the valley until we reached the foot of Kôta Balei. Up to this cave we climbed by a ladder of forty steps and then found ourselves in a vast cave lighted mainly from the entrance and completely closed at the further end, but having three subsi-

* See Mr. CAMERON'S account of his visit to these caves, No. 9 of this Journal, p. 153.

diary caves or chambers, two on the right of the entrance and one on the left, each partially lighted by rifts in the roof. The main cave and the smaller chambers are all very fine, and reminded me of the Sêlângor cave at Batu, though I do not think any of them equal in beauty or size that magnificent rock chamber.

We spent a considerable time in this Kôta Balei and then, descending the ladder, walked a few steps to the edge of the present insignificant stream where you find yourself facing a long, low and straight gallery with a straight, flat roof not less than twenty feet wide. This very remarkable passage with its wide flat roof only about seven to eight feet from the ground was cut by the river out of the solid rock before that ancient period when, for some reason not yet explained, the volume of water in the river became immensely reduced, or the original stream was diverted into some other channel leaving the results of the battle between the water and the rock in the form of the present caves, whence all trace of water has disappeared leaving only the evidence of its power as a constant source of admiration and wonder to the Malays of the country.

At the end of this gallery the rock has been hollowed out into a circular chamber of some height, while from the centre of the ceiling depends one enormous and strikingly beautiful stalactite. After luncheon, with lanterns and torches we explored the long dark cavern which extends into the hill from the back of this circular ante-chamber.

There is nothing to reward the explorer, but the place is infested by myriads of bats which are only with difficulty kept from striking you in their blind flight towards the lights. The masses of Malays in their many coloured dresses with the light of the torches shining on their weapons and swarthy faces, the deep shadowy gloom of the cave as a background, here and there faintly lighted by a ray from the distant entrance, made a scene very remarkable in its picturesque effect.

We left Kôta Kêlanggi at noon and reached our hut at Pulau Tâwer in exactly two hours, after a very smart walk; the heat from Kuâla Têkam to the village was indescribable, and the *TON GĀJAH* was quite knocked up, taking refuge in a

boat and shirking the last mile and a half. About 4 P.M. a heavy storm of rain fell and continued till late in the night. From 8 P.M. till 11 P.M. I talked politics with the TOH GĀJAH and CHE ALI and then retired to the boat to sleep so that we might be able to start in the morning without delay.

It is worthy of record that this Kôta Kĕlanggi is mentioned in the Sĕjĕra Mĕlĕiu (the Malay Annals) as having been occupied by the Siamese. The Sĕjĕra Mĕlĕiu is supposed to be the earliest written record of Malay History.

Thursday, 30th April.—Did not get away till 7 A.M., TOH GĀJAH accompanying us. At 10 A.M. passed Batu Bŭrong, where the cave-making process may be very readily seen in the action of the Pahang River on a huge limestone rock which crops out from its left bank. It is said that there is a subterranean channel from the bottom of this cliff to a place many days' journey down the river. At 10.30 A.M. reached Pulau Burau, where there are said to be quantities of *sĕlĕdang* (wild cattle) in the wet season. In the line of the next reach of the river and straight ahead of us lie two remarkable isolated hills called Bŭkit Sĕnyum and Bŭkit Sah. These hills are said to be plainly visible from the sea and used by the fishermen as landmarks.

At noon reached Tanjong Blanĵa, the limits of TOH GĀJAH's jurisdiction, and here we stayed for one and a half hours breakfasting and then parted with the Dĕtoĥ and continued our journey down river. The TOH GĀJAH has done everything possible for us. I gave him my Pĕrak gŕlok (chopping knife) and we parted excellent friends. I saw him in the river up to his waist saying good-bye to the Subadar.

Passing Kuĕla Krau, a river and *kampung* on the right bank, we reached Pulau Chĕngal at 6.20 P.M., and there camped for the night. Distance travelled, $17\frac{3}{4}$ miles; general direction, South.

The following *kampongs* were passed during the day:—Klang, Sungei Kio, Tanjong Antan, Tanjong Tĕnggoh, Tĕluk Maik, Sungei Sĕbul, Pulau Raya.

Friday, 1st May.—Left at 6 A.M. and passed a Chinese sugar mill at Pĕngkĕlen Bĕnom at 8.30 A.M.; subsequently we saw several of these mills on the left bank, they are driven by buffaloes, and the juice is expressed from the canes by pass-

ing them between three revolving circular blocks of wood in juxtaposition on the same horizontal plane. At 9.30 A.M. Bûkit Sënyum appeared directly astern of the boats, which were then dropping down a long straight reach of the river. Passing Pâsir Mandi, one hundred feet above the sea, we stopped at Tëluk Sintang at noon for breakfast. The river here cuts deeply into the right bank forming a bay and making the width of the stream at this point very considerable.

The Bungau trees with their gorgeous purple flowers grow larger and more numerous as we descend the river, and the forest is everywhere strikingly beautiful. I saw a quantity of maiden-hair fern in the jungle to-day at our halting place, but it did not look like a new kind.

Left Tëluk Sintang at 1.30 P.M., passed Kuâla Sëmantan Ilir a little before 5 P.M., and reached Pulau Tëmerloh at 6 P.M. Camped here for the night. Pulau Tëmerloh, said to be half way between the Sultan's place and Pënjum, is an extensive *kampong*, admirably situated on the right bank opposite to a large island which here divides the stream.

Distance travelled to-day, twenty-one miles; general direction, South. Distance from Kuâla Bernam, 300 miles.

Passed the following *kampongs* to-day:—Jëñërak, Kuâla Tëkai, Lîpat Kâjang, Dor, Sanggang, Bintang, Tëbing Tinggi, Balei Gantang and Bangau.

Saturday, 2nd May.—To-day the villages are larger, the river is wider though no deeper, and the banks are not quite so high. There must be a very considerable population of Malays settled on the banks of the Pahang, and its three large tributaries, of which the Jëlei is undoubtedly the longest, and is properly called by the Malays the parent stream. We left Tëmerloh at 3 A.M., and passed Gual, a large village on the left bank, at 9 A.M., reaching Trîang, *kampong* and tributary stream, at 10 A.M. Trîang is 88 feet above the sea. At Trîang the river was very shallow, and twice we had to drag our boat over the sand. Breakfasted at Kuâla Bra at noon, and leaving again at 2.30 P.M., reached Kërtau at 7 P.M., and camped there for the night. There is a hill called Bûkit Kërtau on the right bank, and the place at present is chiefly remarkable for the enormous extent of sand which stretches between the left bank and the channel of the river. Under the right bank, however, there

is a deep hole said to be infested by crocodiles, and these reptiles have dragged four or five people, sleeping on the sand, into the pool.

We passed the following villages and *kampongs* to-day, in the order named:—Pâsir Anam, Berâleh Kâpas, Lëbak Bëllëngu, Jilam, Mëngkârak, Tambak, Lûbok Pârap, Pâmun, Chërûis, Batu Pâpan, Batu Hanchor, Lûbok Lien, Pulau Kënin, Sintang, Lëmûse, Pulau Nyak.

Distance travelled, twenty-five miles; general direction, North.

Sunday, 3rd May.—It was intolerably hot and close last night, and having started the boats at 12.30 A.M., I tried in vain to sleep on the stern platform of my boat in spite of mosquitoes, and it was not till nearly 5 A.M. that sleep was possible.

It is hardly fair to complain of mosquitoes here, for though the statement that there are none in Pahang is no more accurate than that there are no snakes in Përak, yet there are comparatively few of these pests, in this dry weather at all events, and even after the occasional showers of rain we have had hardly any.

We stuck on a sand-bank for half an hour almost directly after starting, and passed Chëno at 1.30 A.M. Chëno is celebrated for making the best mats in Pahang. They are made of bleached and dyed Mëngkuang leaves and are very pretty.

From Chëno we pushed on down some very long reaches, each two and three miles in length, and even more, usually with islands at intervals making an ever-changing panorama of beautiful pictures. Passed Lâwan at 10 A.M., fifty-five feet above the sea, and at noon we stopped opposite Bûkit Serlin for breakfast. Left again at 2 P.M., and passing Kuâla Luit, a river formerly worked for gold, we reached Terpei at 3.30 P.M. From here there is a good view of the high mountain called Gûnong Chëni, a long irregular triple-peaked mass of hills with a large lake, or series of lakes, at its base.

Gûnong Chëni is seen on the right bank of the river apparently distant about five miles. The lakes are only approachable by a small river—the Chëni (almost dry in this weather), the mouth of which we passed at 4 P.M. The Malays have a great dread of these lakes, will not live near them, though they

are full of fish, and say they are haunted by evil spirits.

Stopped for the night on the sands at Sungei Duri at 6.30 P.M., the last of the boats not coming up till 8.30 P.M. Sungei Duri is another place with a reputation for crocodiles. CHE ALI's nephew was taken here two years ago, but was rescued by his cousin, though the crocodile injured him for life. In the sixteen hours we were travelling to-day, we made thirty-one and three-quarter miles, going at times in nearly all the directions on the compass, but mainly South.

Passed the following places:—Pulau Málang, Bâtu Gâjah, Kuâla Jingga, Pësâgi, Tanjong Bâtu, Kuâla Jěmpôl, Pějin, Těmiang, Lamê, Kuâla Měntěngang, Gálong, Lûbok Paku, Bâtu Râkit, Kuâla Těmělong, Pulau Dato'.

Monday, 4th May.—Left Sungei Duri at 5 A.M. Stopped for two hours at Pinyo, thirty-nine feet above the sea—CHE ALI's kampong—and made an unsuccessful search for peacock, but shot some golden plover. We have seen several peacock on the sands in the early morning, but they keep out of range of anything but a rifle. Passed Sungei Měntiga (whatever that may mean) at noon. This small stream, which flows into the Pahang River, not a day's journey from the sea, bifurcates and one branch, called Sempang, runs back towards the Rumpin river, a tributary of the Muar, so that by ascending the Muar and Rumpin rivers, crossing a few hundred yards of land and descending the Sempang, Měntiga and Pahang Rivers, or *vice versâ*, the Peninsula can very easily be crossed in a comparatively short time.

Stopped at Batu Buâia for breakfast at 11.30 A.M., and continuing our journey at 2 P.M. reached Tanjong Pulei at 6.30 P.M. The river is here about one thousand yards wide.

Distance travelled, eighteen miles; general direction, E.N.E.

Passed the following *kampongs* to-day:—Kinchi, Pulau Ubah, Pulau Plak, Kuâla Lěpa, Pulau Kěpâyang.

Tuesday, 5th May.—Started at 2 A.M., and stopped at Ganchong at 8 A.M. for an hour to allow the boatmen to breakfast. Ganchong is only twelve feet above sea level. CHE ALI went on from here in a small boat to tell the Yam Tûan of our whereabouts. At 1 P.M. reached Langger, a fine *kampong* on the left bank, where the whole population turned out to watch us breakfasting. Left again at 2.30 P.M., and reached Pulau

Klêdi, two miles above the Pêkan, at 4.15 P.M. Here we waited, according to agreement, and in a short time CHE ALI returned with CHE GÂDOH and a message from the Yam Tûan to say that he was very unwell (consumption they say), and asking me to wait here till to-morrow to allow them to make proper preparations. We accordingly camped on the bank, and the tide falling left us ten yards of mud to cross to the boats.

Distance travelled, eighteen miles; general direction, S.E. The river is about one thousand yards wide at this point, and the banks low, but covered with grass and jungle where there is no cultivation.

Unlike the rivers on the West coast, there is no mangrove. To-day the banks were thickly populated, and we passed the following hamlets:—Kampong Temai, Blûker Aceh, Pulau Ganchong, Tanjong Rêngas, Aur Gâding, Kampong Têluk, Sungei Pâhang Tua, Kuâla Langger.

This sort of travelling may seem very easy and pleasant, but it has its disadvantages; for instance, at midnight I started for bed, seemingly no very difficult journey, and immediately stepped into a nest of the *sêmut api*, or fire ant, that is an experience that no one would care to repeat. A Sikh then carried me over the mud and deposited me up to my ankles in water in a dug-out and, with the assistance of that unstable conveyance, I reached the back of my boat somewhere in the depths of which a rat had died three days before. To get as far as possible from the pestilent stench of the decaying rat, I had had my mosquito net hung in the middle of the boat, and to reach that it was necessary to crawl through two doors, each two and a half feet by two feet, and over the body of a sleeping Malay, arranged seemingly to make one's progress as difficult and uncomfortable as possible. Then I faced my curtain to find the hole through which alone entrance can be gained, and which for the best reasons is not in the side but in the bottom of the curtain, next the side of the boat, *i.e.*, with two inches of wood between it and the water. Through that hole I got by a series of gymnastic feats which no one would attempt in the light, and finally reached my goal to find the small mattress quite wet with the heavy dew, and the curtain simply wringing. Fifteen days in a boat four feet wide

and only high enough to sit up on the floor, where the thermometer registers from 92° to 95° for several hours in each day, where rats, scorpions, centipedes, and other vermin abound, and where the crew are too close to be agreeable in this climate, is an experience which forces its drawbacks on the notice of the traveller, in spite of the loveliest scenery and situations which are often more picturesque than pleasant. One result of these circumstances is that, ever since we started, not less than twenty per cent. of our party have been on the sick list, the medicine chest has proved invaluable, and, considering how often its dangerous contents have been drawn upon, it is surprising that, with so much liberality and so little skill, no particular harm has been done. The man and woman who died of cholera were never under my treatment, I am glad to say, and since leaving Sěger we have heard nothing more of cholera.

Wednesday, 6th May.—Went ashore early this morning, and shot a couple of peacock and a brace of jungle fowl. It is certainly rather an astonishing sight to see peacock flying about or sitting on the dead stumps of an old clearing. I also saw a snipe, which is rather remarkable at this time of year and after such a drought; the ground he was in was hard and dry as a highroad. The tide is curious here, it was falling when we arrived at 4 P.M. yesterday, it fell a good deal lower, and at midnight some of our boats were high and dry; at 5 A.M. they they were still in the same position, but at 8 A.M. the tide began to rise, and at 2 P.M. it was nearly up to the top of the bank.

At that hour, on the top of high water, four large barges appeared round the point which hides the Yam Túan's place from us, and in a few minutes reached us. They were all crowded with rowers and chiefs who invited us to take our seats in the largest boat, a long two-storeyed barge with twenty-two rowers clad in yellow jackets, *sarongs* and white trousers. Half an hour's paddling carried us over the two miles of water, and we landed at the stairs in front of the Yam Túan's house, an immense crowd of well dressed Malays lining the steps, the bank of the river and both sides of the road from the jetty down to the gate of the reception hall, where a double line of spearmen waited and conducted us to

the hall, a nicely decorated room raised on low pillars. Here the Datoh Bëndahâra, and Dâtoh Tëmënggong, the two Chief Officers of the State, received us with great ceremony, and telling us the Yam Tûan was far from well but wished to see us, invited us to sit down. Whilst we made our way from the landing place and greeted the Bëndahâra and Tëmënggong, a salute was being fired lower down the river.

I carried on a spasmodic conversation with the Bëndahâra for one and a half hours, during which the Yam Tûan again sent to say he meant to come and see us, and then His Highness appeared. He certainly looked deadly ill, but he was just as courteous and nice as ever, and we all thought he looked a trifle better and spoke with less difficulty (his voice was hoarse and changed, and he complained of cough and fever) when we left him than when he came in.

After I had told him of our journey, he asked us to have some coffee, &c., he and his son, a nice looking boy, joining in this part of the ceremony, and then I told him I should like to see him when he felt better and we left.

Some of the Yam Tûan's people took us across the river to a raft which had been prepared for our accommodation. On the raft is a plank house containing one large room, very comfortably furnished, and a sort of verandah all round it has been planked over so that we can sit out and watch the busy river-life with the picturesque town and palm groves for a background. Another raft much larger than ours with an upper storey (but rapidly falling into decay) was handed over to our people, and a guard of twenty-two Malays were sent to see that no harm befell us! The Bëndahâra, Tëmënggong and others came to see that everything was in order, and then we were left to ourselves. In the night there was a tremendous storm of rain with thunder and lightning, but that was hardly so disturbing as the uproar made by the rats who live under the floor of our raft, a protest I suppose against our occupation of the tenement.

Thursday, 7th May.—The Dato' Mantri of Johor called on me and we had a very long talk about Pabang and the other States.

On making up our itinerary, I find that we have come down the river two hundred and forty-one and a half miles from

Buntu, and three hundred and ninety-five miles from Kuâla Bernam, while there remains another seven miles or so to the mouth of the river.

There is much to admire in this place. Specially striking to any one acquainted with the other Native States is the appearance of the village on the banks of this large river, here about fifteen hundred yards wide, with the picturesque house rafts moored not only along the bank of the river and in face of the Yam Tûan's various houses, but along the shores of the islands which here stud the stream.

These islands are the most beautiful feature of the place; they are large, covered with cultivation in the shape of palms, the cocoa-nut, betel and *jagaree*, or with flowering trees and shrubs and fine short grass. The raft we occupy is moored to the shore of one of these islands just opposite the new mosque of Pëkan, and between us and the opposite bank of the river are three considerable islands with wide stretches of water in between.

On shore in the village there are four notable buildings—the new mosque in the angle made by a small stream or canal coming in to the river from the right bank; one hundred and fifty yards higher up a new brick house such as those occupied by Europeans in Singapore; one hundred and fifty yards further on, the old mosque, a building with far more to recommend it as regards appearance than the new one; and immediately to the right rear of the mosque the Yam Tûan's principal house, a building which, as far as I could judge, is as satisfactory in its accommodation as it is pleasing to the eye. This house, which was built without any plan, is said to have cost \$25,000, and is worth the money.

The Yam Tûan's *Balei* or Audience Hall is an indifferent structure inside the enclosure of another and less pretentious house, which stands half way between the old mosque and the new one.

The business part of the village is of the most wretched description. Two small rows of the veriest hovels, built on either side of the main road, containing in all forty or fifty dwellings constitute the "bazaar" of the principal place in Pahang. As long as the customs of the country are such that Chinese don't find it to their advantage to settle here,

there is no likelihood of improvement in this respect. At the present time the Chinese population of Pëkan numbers about eighty, and when asked why that is so, they reply because the taxation, both in system and as including every article of import or export, is intolerable, and that if ever they import from outside, or buy in the interior anything of value, it is removed by some chief who forgets to pay for it. Chinese will put up with many evils and difficulties and much injustice that no European will tolerate, and while making every allowance for exaggeration, mistakes and wilful falsehoods, the fact that there are not more than two or three hundred Chinese in the whole of this large and rich State so close to Singapore is the best proof of how matters really stand.

This is the fourth time I have visited Pahang, and I have on this occasion had an opportunity of verifying some of the stories that have reached us in the last two years. Without proceeding to details, I can say that those whose experience of the Peninsula has been confined to the Protected Native States would be rather astonished at the manners and customs still prevalent in the governing class in Pahang and if Europeans will risk their capital in any large undertaking here and can manage to comply with their obligations, get business transacted, and obtain justice and satisfaction in their dealings with those they are brought in contact with, I think it will be a little surprising. It will also be well for them to remember that in a purely Malay State patience is not so much a virtue as a necessity.

A good many wide and well selected roads have been laid out and formed, but not metalled, in and about the Pëkan; some fair bridges have also been constructed, and it seems as if, in any future arrangements for the housing of a large Chinese or other population, some new ground would have to be chosen for the site of a town, as there is none available upstream of the canal to which I have referred. Below that, however, land might be got and a town built with the advantage that large boats and steam-launches can get to this point and lie there while they cannot reach the mouth of the canal owing to the shallowness of the water.

All the ground about the Yam Túan's house being already occupied, the best spot for dwelling houses is the island which

lies opposite the Yam Tûan's principal dwelling. The whole country seems to be one vast level plain only a few feet above the level of the river, the soil is excellent and would probably grow any low-country produce, while swamps seem unknown, though I have no doubt the appearance of the place is different in the wet season.

The people of the country, outside the Râjas and Chiefs, with some few exceptions, are industrious for Malays, but their distaste for work may, to some extent, be explained by the fact that a man does not care to work for more than bare subsistence if his gains can always be appropriated by his more powerful neighbour. That, at least, is an explanation offered here and in other Malay States, especially where Siamese influence is strong. *Sic vos non vobis* might have been written of the Malay ryot.

The principal industries of Pahang are agriculture (the cultivation of rice and fruit), the rearing of cattle (especially buffaloes, which are very cheap here), sheep and poultry, a little gold-washing (but there are good reasons why this occupation is limited), and the manufacture of mats and silk cloth. The weaving and mat-making is done by the women, and the silk and mats produced are excellent of their kind, but very little known outside Pahang.

The present occupation of the ruling class in Pahang is top-spinning, and the example is pretty generally followed by all the unemployed male Malays in Pĕkan. There is not much to be said against this very innocent amusement, but it strikes the casual observer as curious that while the people of the Ulu (and indeed nearly every one outside this village) are crying out for the redress of manifest grievances and the introduction of something resembling fixed laws and fair government, those who have the direction of affairs devote to the spinning of tops the time that can be spared from less harmless distractions.

In many respects the State is unlike any on the western coast and more nearly resembles Kĕlantán in features and products. Pahang has undoubtedly great resources and unusual capabilities for supporting and enriching a large population and no intelligent person could see the country without regretting the circumstances which still keep it closed to

legitimate enterprise, whilst its people are unable to take advantage of the gifts lying ready to their hands.

The Map which accompanies this journal shows the route we followed from Kuâla Bernam in the Straits of Malacca, Latitude $3^{\circ} 50'$, to Kuâla Pahang in the China Sea, Latitude $3^{\circ} 44\frac{1}{2}'$. The trace of the Bernam River has been taken from existing information, lately revised by Mr. F. ST.G. CAULFIELD, also the land route from Kuâla Slim to Kuâla Gëlitng. From Kuâla Gëlitng on the Bernam to Buntu on the Lipis River is roughly sketched from a time and compass survey, the distances and general direction being fairly correct, but there is no attempt at accuracy. The sketch of the Lipis and Pahang Rivers is plotted from a time and compass survey made by Captain GILES, R.A., and in this case there is no pretence to accuracy, though it will probably be some years before a more careful survey is made of this river.

So far as I know, this is the first time the Peninsula has been crossed from sea to sea by a European from any point North of the Muar River, that is to say, in the wider part where the journey can only be accomplished by crossing the main range of mountains which forms the backbone of the Peninsula. I believe that Mr. C. Bozzolo crossed from the Galena mines in Patani to the mouth of the Muda River in Këdah, passing however North of the main dividing range.

Fourteen years ago I saw in Klang a Frenchman who told me he had three times crossed the Peninsula from Klang to Trënggânu, but there are very strong reasons for doubting that statement.

Some years ago Messrs. DALY and O'BRIEN ascended the Muar River, crossed a few hundred yards of dry land by portage and descended the Bra, a tributary of the Pahang River, having its embouchure about eighty miles above Pëkan, while Mr. W. KNAGGS, I am told, has just crossed by the Muar and Triang Rivers, the mouth of the Triang being a few miles further from Pëkan than that of the Bra. The shortest crossing of all is said by the Malays to be by the Muar, Rumpin and Mëntîga Rivers.

We have crossed the Peninsula by probably the longest route, unless the ascent of the Muda and descent of the Patani Rivers be longer and feasible. The Bernam river, the largest

in some senses of those flowing into the Straits of Malacca, is the furthest North of those rivers which, rising in the main range, flow East and West to the Straits of Malacca, both the Krian and Muda Rivers being stated to take their rise in mountains other than the main chain. The Pahang River again is universally admitted to be the longest navigable river on either side of the Peninsula, and though we did not descend the centre or parent stream, the Jĕlei, there is probably not very much difference in navigable length between that and the Lipis, and there is no recognised crossing from the western to the eastern side of the range which would take the traveller to the head waters of the Jĕlei, nor any easily navigable river on the western side that would lead up to a point on the western slopes of the main chain opposite to the source of the Jĕlei. When it is considered that the measured distance on the map from Kuâla Bernam to Kuâla Pahang is, as the crow flies, one hundred and seventy miles, the route by which we have travelled covering a distance of four hundred and two miles ascending the largest river on the western side of the Peninsula and descending the longest on the eastern, may be considered fairly direct.

The Straits Government steamer *Sea Belle* arrived on the 7th, and as I was not able to leave and Captain GILES seemed to be seriously ill, I sent him on to Singapore in the *Sea Belle* on the 8th instant.

Mr. LISTER and I remained at Pĕkan till the 14th May. In that time we saw something of the country in the immediate neighbourhood of Pĕkan, and had many opportunities of talking to Malays of all ranks on matters concerning Pahang. The Râja Muda of Pahang (brother of the Yam Tûan), who had arrived in the *Sea Belle*, landed on the 8th, and I had the pleasure of taking him to the *Balei* (Audience Hall) and seeing him reconciled to his brother. On two other evenings I had interviews with the Yam Tûan, and he took us to his principal house, and let us see the *jôget* danced by ladies of his own household. I described these dances and the *gamĕlang* accompaniment in an early number of the Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. I noticed that on these occasions the company of onlookers was much more select than when I first saw the dances, but, as before, the

amusement was continued till nearly daylight.

On the 14th, at 1 P.M., the Yam Tûan, the Râja Muda and all the Chiefs came over to our raft to bid us good-bye, the Yam Tûan with his usual generosity giving something to every member of my party. At 2 P.M. we left in the *Sea Belle's* launch and boats, while a salute was fired from some guns in front of the new mosque, and the Sultan's flag, which he had lowered on our arrival eight days before, was re-hoisted.

The tide had nearly run out when we started, and we only just managed to get the launch out of the river, reaching the *Sea Belle* (lying a long way out) at 4 P.M. We arrived at Singapore at 8 A.M. on the 15th.

I cannot close this journal without remarking that, having journeyed through nearly all the Malay States, I have never met with elsewhere such courtesy as we experienced from all classes in Pâhang. I could only regret my inability to make any adequate return for the hospitality and kindness of the Yam Tûan.

It is stated that the mouth of the Pâhang River is unapproachable in the North-East monsoon and that Pâhang is shut off from communication with the outer world (except by a few jungle paths across the main range of the Peninsula) for six months in the year. I cannot say whether that is true or not, but it is likely, and even in the best of weather no vessel of any size can get near Kuâla Pâhang, while only steam launches of the lightest draught can, in the best weather, get up to Pëkan at all times of the tide. There is, however, an easy way to open this rich country, and that is by the construction of a road, one hundred and thirty miles long, from Johor Bharu, exactly opposite the Johor end of the Singapore-Kranji Road, to Pëkan. About seventy miles of this road would pass through Johor territory, and the rest through Pâhang. A first class bridle-road could be constructed in eighteen months for less than \$150,000, and it could at any time be widened into a cart-road or converted into a tramway or light railroad. This would put Singapore and its resources in direct communication with the lower country of Pahang, besides tapping a long stretch of land, both in Johor and Pahang, useful for the cultivation of low country tropical products.

A town should be established at the junction of the Tēmēn-lin and Pahang rivers, as a centre for the trade of the upper metalliferous country, while the present road from Kuâla Lumpor (the terminus of the Sĕlângor railway) to Ginting Bidei should be continued down the Pahang side of the main range to Bĕntong and Pĕnjum, or some nearer point on the Pahang river. The cost of these roads would be insignificant in comparison with the advantages they would bring to Pahang, and in a lesser degree to Johor and Sĕlângor ; but if it were possible to get the work done under the present *régime*, it may be doubted whether those who now direct the affairs of Pahang would be able to utilize their opportunities for the best interests of the State.

F. A. SWETTENHAM.

PAHANG, 10th May, 1885.